Six laning of NHs

†377. SHKI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sanction has been granted to make Delhi-Meerut Highway six lane but delay is being made in granting sanction to make Meerut-Haridwar-Dehradun highway six-lane;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the action being proposed to be taken in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for six laning of Delhi-Meerut section of National Highway (NH) is in progress. However, six laning of Meerut-Haridwar-Dehradun section of NH is not envisaged at this stage. Presently, for its four laning, work in Meerut-Muzaffarnagar section of NH has been taken up on Build Operate and Transfer*(BOT) basis, DPR for Muzaffarnagar-Haridwar section is being updated and preparation of DPR for Haridwar-Dehradun section of NH is in progress.

NHs In Uttar Pradesh

†378. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways, in terms of kms., repaired, developed and maintained in Uttar Pradesh during the last three financial years;

(b) the amount spent on development, repair and maintenance of these highways;

(c) whether amount allocated for road development and repair is considered to be insufficient by Government in view of large size of the State;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to sanction sufficient funds for better maintenance of National Highways; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA):(a) and (b) In Uttar Pradesh, during the last three financial years 1331 km. of National Highways has been widened/strengthened/improved for its riding quality besides construction of 453.50 km. under National Highways Development Project. Maintenance and repair is a continuous process and has been taken up for the entire National Highways network in Uttar Pradesh. The total amount spent on development, maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh during the last three financial years was Rs. 3756.81 crore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Full allocation of Rs. 140.95 crore for National Highways Original works made to the State of Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year is not likely to be utilised. So far only Rs. 69.04 crore have been utilised till 31-1-2007. Similarly, for maintenance and repair, the allocation during the current year is Rs. 55.19 crore against which the utilisation so far is Rs. 28.74 crore.

Unemployed seamen

379. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed short-term measure of allowing two marine officers of foreign origin to work on Indian ships;

(b) whether there are about 70,000 trained seafarers in India at present against 20,000 positions available, rendering a large number unemployed; and

(c) whether with a huge unemployed surplus of seamen at the level of ratings, Government would enhance training facility for senior level officers, to avoid hiring of foreign hands?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) In view of acute shortage of Indian officers to work on Indian ships, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions.